

could be no dissent in the jury's decision and therefore believed that they had to give in to the majority opinion of guilt. Still, the judge refused to overturn the verdict.

Mr. Speaker, the extraordinary details surrounding the prosecution of this case assures that justice has not been served. For the sake of the agents and their families and for the sake of the American people who they were working to protect, I encourage the President to review the facts of this case as soon as possible. In addition to the 250,000 petitions that have been collected on behalf of the agents, the American people and Members of Congress should encourage the President to review this case. I hope that the Members of Congress and the American people will call the White House and ask the President to immediately reverse this injustice by pardoning these two innocent men.

STATE OF THE UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Last November, the American people demanded a dramatic change at home and abroad. Now in the majority, Democrats in Congress are delivering on that promise. With the State of the Union address to be held tonight, President Bush can demonstrate that he has listened to the American public and is ready to work with the Congress on these priorities. On critical issues from Iraq to energy independence, it is time to take America in a new direction.

On security and Iraq. President Bush likes to make promises in the State of the Union addresses, he just doesn't always keep those promises. The President has promised the American people to strengthen America's security. Unfortunately, his policies have made the world more dangerous and America less safe. Now he wants to escalate the war in Iraq over the overwhelming opposition of the American public and many of his own generals. Unfortunately, President Bush's plan to escalate the war in Iraq will not bring success in Iraq or make America safer. It will receive an up-or-down vote in both chambers of Congress. We will always put our troops first, and that means holding the President accountable for those changes that he wants to provide.

Democrats have a plan for success that will make America safer and bring our troops home. Shifting the principal mission of our forces from combat to training, logistics, force protection and activities to counter terrorism; beginning the phased deployment of our forces in the income tax 4 to 6 months; and implementing an aggressive diplomatic strategy both within the region and beyond to help the Iraqis achieve a sustainable political settlement, including amending their constitution.

On economic security. Last November, the American people demanded real results to improve their everyday lives and strengthen middle-class families. Today, President Bush has the opportunity to talk about a change of action there and work in a bipartisan way with those of us that are here serving in the House.

In its first 100 hours, the House of Representatives succeeded in passing legislation to raise the minimum wage, expand Federal funding for stem cell research, implement recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, require negotiations for lower prescription drug costs, make college more affordable for many, many families, and end subsidies for Big Oil to invest in clean renewable energy. These 100-hour bills are just the beginning. The new Congress will do more to take America in a new direction.

On health care. President Bush's health insurance proposal is a tax hike on the middle class of our country. It will do little to help the uninsured and will undermine the health insurance of those lucky enough to have it already. In the same year that President Bush is once again submitting a budget making his tax cuts permanent—tax cuts that go overwhelmingly to the richest Americans—he is proposing to shift more of the cost of health care onto working families. Under President Bush's leadership, the Nation's health insurance crisis has actually worsened, costs are up and the number of uninsured Americans has grown. This latest proposal is another step in the wrong direction.

On energy independence. Key to our national security and our economic security is energy independence. Last year in the State of the Union address by the President, he declared that we were addicted to oil. One week later in his annual budget, he shortchanged the development of alternative fuels and technologies needed to make America energy independent. As you know, Democrats are already putting America on a path to energy independence by cutting huge subsidies to Big Oil and investing in the alternative fuels and technologies needed to protect our national security, our economy and our environment. The science of global warming and its impact is overwhelming, as you know. The American public understands the urgency of the problem. We want to work with President Bush in a bipartisan fashion but we can't wait for him to put science before special interests.

Democrats will listen to what President Bush has to say today and we hope he will listen to the American public. It is time for all of us to work together for a new direction for all Americans.

THE INFORMED CHOICE ACT, H.R.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Janu-

ary 4, 2007, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday there was a pro-life rally here in Washington, DC. In fact, the 22nd annual rally. I thought I would take a moment and talk about some of the innovations involved with ultrasound equipment which is very beneficial for women who are pregnant who wish to look at the fetus.

Recently, my colleagues, National Geographic presented a 2-hour program charting the fetal development of several mammals with the use of new generation ultrasound imagery. Physicians created a stunning portrait of a mammal in utero, but just imagine the reaction of parents today when viewing a 3-D fetal snapshot of their unborn son or daughter smiling back at them.

Professor Stuart Campbell, one of the world's leading experts in obstetrics, believes that ever improving imagery, particularly moving from 3-D to 4-D scanning, which are inching closer and closer to actually displaying real-time movements, represents the tip of the iceberg for fetal behavior study.

As with these amazing images, ultrasound technology provides parents-to-be with a window into the womb which can result in a stronger parent-child bond, better prenatal treatment and also supply doctors with obviously an advanced understanding of fetal development and behavior.

Today's ultrasound equipment is better than ever and the technology will improve even better over time. Such images allow physicians to readily identify critical health problems such as spina bifida, heart complications, neural tube defects, and genetic syndromes. Ultrasound imagery brings many benefits to women, their unborn children and, of course, to our health care system in general. Continued research, breakthrough developments, and preventative care could save millions of dollars.

Public health advocates know that access to early, high-quality prenatal care is key to maternal and newborn health. Therefore, this prenatal care should include ultrasound equipment. Sonograms can diagnose serious complications that can be easily avoided if discovered early on during a pregnancy. Four-dimensional imaging shows objects in 3-D moving close to real time. Doctors have long known that fetuses move, but the physical behavior revealed by these scans is expanding upon their knowledge exponentially. The possibilities of improving the health of women and their unborn children are endless.

Mr. Speaker, these advanced ultrasound images can give women an opportunity for better prenatal health and decrease risks during pregnancy not only for themselves but obviously for their unborn child. Unfortunately, there are a lot of women today that cannot afford access to this critical medical service. These underprivileged